

IN THE DRAWINGS

Submitted herewith are 3 sheets of replacement drawings. Upon approval of the Examiner, entry of these replacement drawing sheets is respectfully submitted.

REMARKS

Responsive to the outstanding Office Action, applicant has carefully studied the Examiner's rejections and the comments relative thereto. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and following detailed arguments.

In the amendment, claims 13, 14, 17, 18 and 24 were amended. It is submitted that no new matter has been entered into the claims through these amendments.

INDICATION OF ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has indicated that claims 13-24 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph set forth in the office action. In response thereto, and for the reasons stated below, it is believed that this is the case. Therefore, allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner objected to paragraphs on pages 2 and 8 of the application. The rejections on page 2 were on the basis of inclusion of references to the claims in the specification. In response thereto, the second and third paragraphs on page 2 have been amended in a manner believed to overcome these rejections. In the paragraph beginning on line 15, the language referring to claim 1 was replaced with explicit language corresponding to claim 13. In the paragraph beginning on line 16, the reference to claim 1 was deleted.

With regard to page 8, the specification was amended to indicate that the reference numerals "correspond" instead of indicating that they were identical. The paragraph including line 22 was amended as indicated by the Examiner.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are requested.

IN THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner objected to the drawings first on the basis of quality, and second, noted that reference numerals 9a and 9b, while present in the specification, were not shown on the drawings.

In response thereto, 3 replacement sheets for figures 1, 2a, 2b and 3 have been submitted herewith. It is believed that these replacement sheets conform to the USPTO standards for drawing quality.

It is also respectfully submitted that reference numeral 9b was already depicted on Figure 2a, and that this rejection of the Examiner was therefore improper. Reference numeral 9a, however, was missing from the drawings, and has been incorporated into Figure 2a. AS this feature was already described in the specification, and was shown on the drawings, but not numbered, it is respectfully submitted that incorporation of this reference numeral does not constitute new matter.

Entry of the replacement sheets and withdrawal of the Examiner's objections are therefore respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTION

Claim 14 was objected to because of a minor formality which is believed to have been corrected herein. It is believed that this objection is therefore overcome.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 13-24 for an extensive list of objections under 35 USC 112 second paragraph. Applicants respond as follows.

The Examiner notes that claim 13 refers to "the vehicle interior" which lacks antecedent basis. In response thereto, claim 13 has been amended to define a vehicle, having an interior and an exterior.

The Examiner notes that claim 17 recites "the interior beltline" "the vehicle", "the lower edge" and "the door". The vehicle was defined in claim 13, as noted above, and claim 17 has been amended to recite the remaining elements as "new" elements not requiring antecedent basis.

In claim 18 "the screw domes" has been amended to be shown as new elements.

With regard to claim 19, claim 13 was amended to define a vehicle exterior.

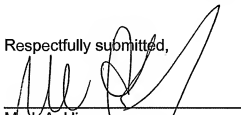
Claim 24 has been amended to define a longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that each of the Examiner's rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph have been addresses.

SUMMARY

In view of the forgoing, the claims, specification and drawings are all believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner wish to modify the application in any way, applicant's attorney suggests a telephone interview in order to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark A. Hixon
Registration No. 44,766

ATTORNEYS

Marshall & Melhorn, LLC
Four SeaGate - 8th Floor
Toledo, Ohio 43604
(419) 249-7114
(419) 249-7151 Facsimile